

1 Supporting Statement – Part A

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER OMB No. 0535-0005

JUSTIFICATION

This submission is a renewal request for approval of this long-running information collection for an additional 3 years. There are only minor changes in the survey program, mostly updating universe/sample sizes after list frame maintenance.

- 1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

The primary functions of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) are to prepare and issue State and national estimates of crop and livestock production, disposition, and prices and to collect information on related environmental and economic factors. Crop and livestock statistics help maintain a stable economic atmosphere and reduce risk for production, marketing, and distribution operations. The agricultural industry increasingly calls upon NASS to supply reliable, timely, and detailed information in its commodity estimation program.

This docket contains the two livestock slaughter surveys conducted by NASS: Federally-Inspected (FI) and Non-Federally-Inspected (NFI) livestock slaughter plants. The FI survey is mandatory. The NFI survey is mandatory for a portion of NFI plants in states with mandatory reporting laws; participation of the remainder of NFI plants in the survey is voluntary.

Information collected from both types of plants is combined to estimate total red meat production, consisting of the number of head slaughtered and live weights of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, and bison. Knowing total red meat production, the number of head slaughtered, and live weights allows the industry to prepare and address issues related to supply and pricing. The data are also used at the end of the year to confirm production and disposition information for NASS livestock estimates made during the year.

General authority for these data collection activities is granted under U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2204(a) which specifies that "The Secretary of Agriculture shall procure and preserve all information concerning statistics ... and shall distribute them among agriculturists."

- 2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

Federally-Inspected (FI) livestock slaughter is reported under a cooperative arrangement between USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and NASS. FSIS fulfills its responsibilities mandated by the Federal Meat Inspection Act (U.S. Code Title 21, Sections 620 and 661) by collecting daily slaughter data from all Federally-Inspected plants.

Non-Federally-Inspected (NFI) livestock slaughter data are collected by NASS Regional Field Offices from State inspection agencies and/or by conducting a mail survey. Each office is responsible for maintaining a list frame of all slaughter plants that are not inspected by FSIS or the State so that they can be contacted.

NASS obtains the daily FI data, combines it with the monthly NFI data, and publishes a monthly commercial slaughter report. These published data are used by the United States Department of Agriculture, other Federal and State agencies, and the livestock industry, in combination with data from other NASS livestock surveys, to project future meat supplies and producer prices. Agricultural economists in both the public and private sectors also use this information in economic analysis and research.

- 3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g. ,permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

FI plants report head slaughtered and live and dressed weight to FSIS using software designed specifically for and by FSIS for FSIS purposes. NASS obtains this previously reported FI plant information from FSIS, eliminating the need for new data collection.

For the portion of NFI plants that are surveyed directly by NASS Regional Field Offices monthly, web-based reporting is available as a response mode (in addition to telephone and paper instruments). The quarterly and annual respondents do not have the option of an on-line instrument at this time. It is estimated that about 70 of 2,100 NFI plants will use the web option. The total percentage of electronic responses is estimated at $(900 \text{ FI} + 70 \text{ NFI}) / (900 + 2,100) = 32.3\%$ (see table in A.12 for sample size figures).

- 4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item 2 above.**

These surveys meet both State and Federal needs. The cooperative agreements between NASS, AMS, and FSIS eliminate duplication and minimize reporting burden on the livestock industry. The data are not available from any other source. NASS receives notification of new grants and withdrawals from FSIS to prevent duplication of data reporting.

- 5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

Small custom slaughter plants are generally NFI. The data for these plants are collected either from State inspection agencies or through the monthly NFI Slaughter Report. The data collected through the monthly NFI Slaughter Report may allow for reporting multiple months on a report, thereby reducing the number of contacts. Information requested on the livestock slaughter surveys can be provided with a minimum of difficulty by operators, generally from normal operating records.

- 6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

Collecting data less frequently would eliminate data that is needed by the Department of Agriculture, markets, and the livestock industry to keep abreast of changes at the State and National level. The Food Safety and Inspection Service is required by law to collect slaughter data from all Federally-Inspected plants each week. Timing and frequency of the various reports have evolved to meet the needs of producers, agribusinesses, and government agencies, yet minimize burden on the reporting public.

- 7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner (*inconsistent with the general information guidelines in 5 CFR 1320.5*):**
- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
 - **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it; . . .**

Data collection plans require a segment of the respondents to prepare a written response within 30 days of receipt and to respond weekly or monthly in order to

comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (U.S. Code Title 21, Sections 620 and 661) and to publish the releases on time. The government and industry depend on these publication dates to make policy and business decisions. There are no other special circumstances associated with this survey.

- 8. Provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8 (d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments.**

The Federal Register Notice soliciting comments was published on June 26, 2017, in Vol. 82, Number 121, on page 28815 - 28816. NASS received only one public comment for this renewal and it is from Dr. Dennis Fixler at the Bureau of Economic Analysis, in support of this renewal.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Statisticians from NASS Regional Field Offices and Headquarters attend numerous meetings throughout the year to explain the crop and livestock estimates programs. These meetings frequently provide feedback on data needs and suggested program improvements. NASS regularly holds data user meetings across the country to solicit comments about its surveys. NASS works closely with FSIS and AMS to keep the slaughter survey instruments current and relevant.

- 9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents.**

There are no payments or gifts to respondents.

- 10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

Questionnaires include a statement that individual reports are confidential. U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1905; U.S. Code Title 7, Section 2276; and Public Law 107-347, Title V (CIPSEA) provide for confidentiality of reported information. All employees of NASS and all enumerators hired and supervised under a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) must read the regulations and sign a statement of compliance.

Additionally, NASS employees and NASS contractors comply with the OMB implementation guidance document, "Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA)." CIPSEA supports NASS's pledge of confidentiality to all respondents and facilitates the agency's efforts to reduce burden by supporting statistical activities of collaborative agencies through designation of NASS agents, subject to the limitations and penalties described in CIPSEA.

The following confidentiality pledge statement will appear on all NASS questionnaires.

The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes only. Your responses will be kept confidential and any person who willfully discloses ANY identifiable information about you or your operation is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both. This survey is conducted in accordance with the Confidential Information Protection provisions of Title V, Subtitle A, Public Law 107-347 and other applicable Federal laws. For more information on how we protect your information please visit:
<https://www.nass.usda.gov/confidentiality>.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature.

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in Item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.

Burden hours based on the average completion time per questionnaire are summarized below.

NASS uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics (most recently published on March 31, 2017 for the previous May) to estimate an hourly wage for the burden cost. The May 2016 mean wage for bookkeepers was \$19.34. The mean wage for farm managers was \$36.44. The mean wage for farm supervisors was \$23.47. The average of the three is \$26.42. The annual estimated reporting time of 1,748 hours is multiplied by \$26 per hour for a total cost to the public of \$45,448.

Projected Annual Burden for Livestock Slaughter (2018-2020)

Survey	Estimated Sample Size	Waves of Data Collection	Estimated Responses				Non-response				Total Burden Hours
			Resp. Count	Waves x Count	Min./ Resp.	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves x Count	Min./ Nonr.	Burden Hours	
Weekly Livestock Slaughter Report (FI) *	900	52	900	46,800	15	0	0	0	2	0	0
Monthly Livestock Slaughter Report (State Inspected) **	1,100	12	1,100	13,200	15	0	0	0	2	0	0
Slaughter Report (monthly) (NFI)	550	12	440	5,280	15	1,320	110	1,320	2	44	1,364
Slaughter Report (quarterly) (NFI)	350	4	280	1,120	15	280	70	280	2	9	289
Slaughter Report (annually) (NFI)	100	1	80	80	15	20	20	20	2	1	21
Publicity Materials and/or EDR instructions mailed with questionnaires to NFI Slaughter Plants	1,000	1	800	800	5	67	200	200	2	7	74
Totals	1,000		800	6,480		1,687	200	1,620		61	1,748
* Federally Inspected Slaughter Plants are not included in the calculation of total burden. The USDA inspectors are Federal employees and are performing this task as a part of their job functions.											
** State Inspected Slaughter Plants are not included in the calculation of total burden. The State inspectors are performing this task as a part of their job functions.											

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or record keepers resulting from the collection of information.

There are no capital/start-up or ongoing operation/maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal government; provide a description of the method used to estimate cost which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (equipment, overhead, printing, and staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

The total cost to the Federal government for the livestock slaughter surveys will remain at an estimated annual cost of \$800,000. Virtually all of the costs are personnel costs associated with data collection and review. Other costs include postage (for the portion of the NFI surveys that are mailed to respondents), computer processing, summarization, and printing.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in Items 13 or 14 of the OMB Form 83-I (reasons for changes in burden).

NASS had several program changes that impacted the target population and total respondent burden for this renewal docket. Some of the operations that were not, State inspected plants in the previous approval have become State inspected facilities. Some of the small monthly operations were moved into the quarterly response group to reduce respondent burden. Some operations went out of business and were dropped from the survey. All of these changes are reflected in the adjusted sample sizes in the table below.

In the previous approval NASS did not include response burden for the publicity materials that were sent out to the quarterly and annual respondents. An adjustment has been made to the total burden to allow for the newly adjusted samples. These changes are displayed in the following table.

Survey	Sample Size	Responses			Non-response			Total Burden Hours
		Resp. Count	Waves x Count	Burden Hours	Nonresp Count	Waves x Count	Burden Hours	
Adjustments								
Adjusted burden for publicity materials sent to entire sampled population				7			2	9
Adjustment Sub-Totals	0	0	0	7	0	0	2	9
Program Changes								
Number of monthly NFI plants went from 900 to 550	(350)	(280)	(3,360)	(840)	(70)	(840)	(28)	(868)
Number of Quarterly NFI plants went from 200 to 350	150	120	480	120	30	120	4	124
Number of annual NFI plants went from 200 to 100	(100)	(80)	(80)	(20)	(20)	(20)	(1)	(21)
Program Change Sub-Totals	(300)	(240)	(2,960)	(740)	(60)	(740)	(25)	(765)
Totals	(300)	(240)	(2,960)	(733)	(60)	(740)	(23)	(756)

- 16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.**

The Federally-Inspected (FI) and Non-Federally-Inspected (NFI) slaughter surveys comprise a census of all known plants that slaughter cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, or bison. The combined information collected from plants is used to estimate total red meat production, consisting of the number of head slaughtered and live and dressed weights of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, and bison. It is also used in preparing production, disposition, and income statistics.

FI livestock slaughter data are reported under a cooperative arrangement between USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and NASS. FSIS Federal meat inspectors are responsible for compiling daily FI plant data that are comparable to the Weekly Livestock Slaughter Report and submitting that data to FSIS which then shares the data with NASS. NASS then accumulates FI head slaughtered, live weight, and dressed weight by species and class to monthly totals for summarization with NFI totals.

NFI slaughter is collected by NASS Regional Field Offices from State inspection agencies by using the monthly Slaughter Report printed questionnaire or Web-

based questionnaire. Each Regional Field Office is responsible for maintaining a list frame of all slaughter plants that are not inspected by FSIS or the State. NASS statisticians review the NFI reports for reasonableness prior to transmitting the data to NASS Headquarters. Small custom slaughter facilities are given the option of reporting quarterly or annually. The data from these smaller operations are included in the annual publications. Data from the FI and NFI plants are combined to produce estimates of commercial slaughter totals for cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, and bison in the U.S. The data are also used to derive total red meat production and prepare production, disposition, and income statistics.

Weekly slaughter totals are published by AMS in *Livestock, Meat, & Grain Highlights*:

<https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/livestock-poultry-grain-weekly-market-news-publications>.

NASS publishes slaughter totals and commercial red meat production monthly in *Livestock Slaughter*, reached from NASS Web-site at nass.usda.gov or directly by URL:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1096>.

NASS publishes the *Livestock Slaughter, Annual Summary* in April of each year:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1097>.

In addition, *Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income* is published each April, and the slaughter data is used to calculate total marketings:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1101>.

NASS also publishes the *Overview of the United States Slaughter Industry*:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/SlauOverview/SlauOverview-10-27-2016.pdf>

Data Collection and Publication			
Livestock Slaughter	Data Collection	Publication	Release Date(s)
	Collection Period		
Federally Inspected Surveys *	Weekly	Weekly Livestock, Meat & Grain Highlights	Each Thursday
		Livestock Slaughter	Monthly
		Livestock Slaughter Annual Summary	April
		Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income	April
Non-Federally Inspected Surveys *	Monthly, Quarterly, or Annually	Livestock Slaughter	Monthly
		Livestock Slaughter Annual Summary	April
		Meat Animals Production, Disposition, and Income	April

* The Federally inspected data and Non-Federally inspected data are collected at a different frequency, but the data is combined in the same monthly and annual publications.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

No approval is requested for non-display of the expiration date.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, “Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions” of OMB Form 83-I.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

September, 2017